



## AGAVE VILMORINIANA OCTOPUS AGAVE

**OUTSTANDING FEATURES:** Unlike most *Agaves*, the Octopus Agave is completely unarmed, and can safely be used in high traffic areas such as sidewalks, entries and patios. Its unusual arching and twisted leaves provide an interesting contrast to leafy shrubs and groundcovers. Although flowering signals the end of this plant's life cycle, the spectacular golden flower spike allows it to go out in a blaze of glory!

**DESCRIPTION:** Octopus Agave is a medium to large plant, growing to 4 feet high by 6 feet wide. The leaves are medium green, long and narrow, and deeply channeled. The leaves undulate and twist, showing why this plant is called Octopus Agave. The leaf margins have very fine, soft serrations and a soft terminal spine. Each plant blooms once, sending up a 15 to 20 foot tall spike of golden yellow flowers. This flowering generally occurs from March to May. The flowers are followed by both seed capsules and bulbils. (Bulbils are "baby" plants that are produced along the flower spike. These can be collected and planted to replace the dead mother plant.)

**CULTURE/MAINTENANCE:** *Agave vilmoriniana* is hardy to about 20 degrees F. It is quite drought tolerant once established, and can grow in Tucson without any supplemental irrigation. However, it is also opportunistic, and will use any available water to grow faster and bloom sooner. This plant is tolerant of most soil types, from heavy clays to sandy soils. Just remember to adjust the watering according to the soil type. Octopus Agave is fast growing, sometimes flowering in as little as four years after planting. It grows best in full sun or light shade. Very little maintenance is required until the plant flowers and sets bulbils.

**IDENTIFICATION:** Octopus Agave cannot be confused with any other species of *Agave*. The deeply channeled, unarmed leaves that arch and twist are quite distinctive.

**LANDSCAPE APPLICATION:** Octopus Agave can be used as an accent plant in any zone of the landscape. It performs well in reflected heat locations such as medians or hot planters, and works well under the shade of desert trees as well. It can be planted singly to show off the interesting form, or mass planted for a unique look. *Agave vilmoriniana* is compatible with drought tolerant shrubs and trees, including; *Acacia stenophylla*, *Cercidium floridum*, *Cercidium microphyllum*, *Larrea tridentata*, the *Leucophyllum* species, and *Zexmenia hispida* **Devil's River**™.



**PRECAUTIONS:** As with all other *Agave* species, *A. vilmoriniana* will die after flowering. However, this plant produces bulbils on the flower spike and many more plants can be grown from just (continued from page 1) one spike. An established plant is not usually bothered by rabbits. Some young plants have been uprooted by javelina. The succulent leaves of this plant are easily damaged by rough handling.

ACACIA  
FLORENTINA

AGAVE VILMORINIANA  
OCTOPUS AGAVE



A research plot of Octopus Agaves in gorgeous bloom at the University of Arizona's Marana Farm.



Octopus Agave in a Tucson landscape.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY	
SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	4 feet x 6 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Golden yellow
FLOWER SEASON	Late spring, summer
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Moderate
GROWTH RATE	Fast
HARDINESS	20° F USDA 9
PRUNING	None
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Antonio, South Texas

For more information, call: toll-free (800) 840-8509 or (623) 247-8509  
Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, PO Box 2500, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340-2500